

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Thursday, June 9. 1709.

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**A**S the King of *France* said at the Battle of *Hochstet*, NOW THE WAR IS BEGUN; Now the Sword is drawn in earnest, and the Scabbard thrown away, and the Confederates and *French* both have nothing to depend upon but their Arms, and to obtain that by Force, which cannot be obtain'd by Treaty; if the *French* do not repent it, I am mistaken; and if they do, it will appear they are mistaken.

I acknowledge for my self, I am not among the Number of those that say, they are glad the *French* have refus'd to make Peace; I own, I should have rejoyc'd in Behalf of my Country and of all *Europe*, at the Enjoyment of a Peace so glorious, so

advantageous as this was, and I do own my self among those that are disappointed in Expectation, and that thought the *French* in earnest—Nay, I am not complimenting them, when I say, I do still believe they were in earnest, and that the Urgency of their Affairs made them in earnest; that Heaven fought against them, and Sword and Famine had so humbled them, that they must, if possible, come to Peace.

But the Severity of the Terms, *say they*, have made them desperate— And perhaps they think, they may have these Terms, if we were in Possession of great Part of their Country; for say some, what can we ask more?

I shall not make such an Out-cry here as some do, of the *French* having trick'd us, cheated us, and gain'd their Ends upon us, nor is it for the Reputation of the Confederates Policy to make such a Noise of Resentment at the *French*; I hope, none of the Confederate Generals wanted Resentment before; the Oppressions of *France* upon whole *Europe* were the Ground of every Body's Resentment. It is certain, or at least it appears so to me, the *French* were sincere in desiring A PEACE, the Misery of their Country acknowledg'd it, the Disorder of their Affairs confess'd it, the Concessions they really made, and which their Minister offer'd to sign, confess'd it—— They were certainly sincere in their Desires of a Peace and would have given you vast Pledges for the obtaining it; but they would not give the main Thing for which we make War, I mean, *Spain*, without which we cannot make Peace.

If I am arguing against all the World, I cannot help it—— So far I believe the *French* were sincere, that they would gladly end the War. But there are some bitter Pills in the Articles, that they are not yet humbled enough to swallow, that will of Necessity throw their Affairs into some Convulsions, which they dare not struggle with; such as the Treaty of Religion, acknowledging King *Charles III.* renouncing *Spain*, and abandoning *Philip V.* forsaking all the Princes that are tied to his Protection, sacrificing the D. of *Bavaria*—— And a terrible Article of further Demands to be made not yet express'd, an extensive Thing, left indefinite for the Confederates to explain, when and how they thought fit.

Now it is certain, these Things were so far agreed on by *M. de Torcy*, as to be only left to the Determination of his Master, and so many Days given him to ratify or reject them; this, I think, is allow'd in the Lectures sent by *Marguis De Torcy* to Prince *Eugene* wherein he names a Promise to send him Word, if his Master approv'd them or no.

Now, if it be so, why should we make such a great Noise of being trick'd? That the *French* would trick us if they could,

there is no doubt of; but is it for our Honour to own the *French* have trick'd us? And wherein have they trick'd us? The Confederates were open and above board, as if they had said, *These are our Terms*, and to assure the King of *France* of it, we here sign them——If your Master thinks fit to sign them, we give him to the 15th to do it——If not, if he dislikes them——*There's no Harm done*; We will hate nothing, let him let them alone, we will try it out.

Thus, Gentlemen, the same Articles were sent hither to the QUEEN to sign and ratify. If her Majesty had dislike'd any particular Article, and had not ratify'd it, but sent it back for an Amendment, would you have dar'd to say, the QUEEN had trick'd the *French*? Are not all Treaties sent for Ratification, and a Time given to refuse or accept? And does not sending for Ratification imply a Liberty to ratify, or let it alone?

Let us therefore leave off our Exclamation at our being trick'd——As what Answers no End at all——The *French* never us'd to have more Sincerity than consist'd with their Interest, and we all knew that before.——To lay all the Weight of this upon Insincerity, is to tax all the Confederates with Credulity, and to own you have lost Opportunities, Advantages, &c. which I do not see we have. The Business is plain and short, you are where you were, nor do I believe, you have lost any Advantages; the Backwardness of the Season would not have permitted the Armies to march sooner, and you are now in the Field; if you think, the *French* are not sincere enough or humbled enough, now is the Time to push them, and I doubt not you may do it, and obtain what Conditions ye please to demand.

When therefore I said, I own I was among those, who are disappointed at the breaking up of this Treaty——I hope, Gentlemen, you will distinguish between being disappointed and being discourag'd——*We must go on*——Distrust is written upon *French* Tyranny; and I do confess, tho' for our own Sake and for my Country's Quiet, I should have, as I said, joyc'd at the Peace, the Terms being so great; yet if I am to speak of the Protestant Interest, the



the Cause of Liberty and Religion, I own, I believe, it shall receive more Advantage by continuing the War, than by the Peace— Who knows, why Heaven shuts the Eyes of the *French* to their own Interest, and seals up the Spirit of the King of *France* against the Instruction of his own Disaster. — Has the King of *France* trick'd us? *No, no*, Gentlemen, he has trick'd himself; and if GOD go on to bless your Arms with the same Success you had last Year, he will find he has trick'd his own Country, and defeated his own Prospects of Peace, by an Obstinacy and Blindness to his own Interest, hardly to be parallel'd since that of *Agypt*, or like the Infatuation of the *Jews* at the Destruction of *Jerusalem*.

We are now busy asking one another— What more we shall demand when upon another Advantage in the Field, the King of *France* shall sue for Peace— I confess, as to Possession of Lands, Countries, &c. I do not see what can be ask'd more, for I am not for a Partition of *France*, any more than I am of *Spain*— Some are for asking his Navy to be destroy'd, *Brest* and *Thoulon* demolish'd, and the like; others the restoring the Protestants.

For my Part, if I may be allow'd to throw in my Mite, and shoot a Fools Bolt in a Case so remote from my low Station in the World, it should be this, That the next time the King of *France* makes a Motion for a Peace, the Confederates should answer, That the King of *France* having, to begin this War, publicly broken in upon sundry Treaties, solemnly made before, such as the Treaty of Renuaciation, the Treaty of Partition, &c. The Confederates had resolv'd not to treat with him singly, as a Man of no Faith; but that if the Estates of *France* would assemble, they were ready to treat with them on a firm, lasting, and honourable Peace.

This indeed would be a terrible Blow to THE PERSONAL GLORY of the King of *France*. But I think verily, it would be the justest stroke, that has ever yet been struck: Then you should see, whether Passive Obedience was any more a *French* Doctrine, than an *English*; whether Divine Right was twisted with the Law of Nature or no. Then the Trials of the Text would

be made, and we should see, whether *Oppression* would not make wise Men mad, ay, and wise Nations TOO; then it would appear, whether *Salm Populi* was not *suprema Lex*, and whether the *French* were any more in Love with Bondage than other People— They'd soon abandon and depose him, and the Renegado-Doctrine of the inherent Right of Personal Succession would be damn'd by publick Vote, as it has been already, both there and in all the Nations in the World.

Let us not be discourag'd then at the Disappointment of Peace; GOD be prais'd, we have met with no Disappointment in the War; our Army is whole, hearty, well-paid, well-provided, well-recruited, strong, superior, and victorious, the *French*, we say, dare not look us in the Face.

They are indeed drawing together, and they lie in the open Field; they say, they will expect us there, but no Body believes them; they say, they are superior to us in Horse, but no Body believes them; they say, they will fight us, but no Body believes them; all the Danger that we think of, all the Mischief we think possible to befall us, is, That they should so manage, as that we should not be able to force them to a Battle; if they avoid fighting, they beat us; if we fight, we beat them; if we beat them we undo them, for they can never make Head again.

*France* has already flood more Shocks, more total Overthrows, than any Nation or Empire in the World ever flood; and yet they are whole and numerous, their Regiments full, their Horse superior to us in Number— This is owing to the Conduct of their Officers, who are allow'd to be the best in the World. But this Conduct can by no means give Courage, the Men are raw, new-rai'd, forc'd into the Army by Famine and National Misery; all the Hope their own Officers have of them, is, That they are desperate, yet they are full of the Misfortunes of their Comrades, and the Ruins of the last Campaign, which dishearten them, and we think, they will never look us in the Face; if they do, they deceive the Expectation the whole World has of them.



But after all, suppose they dare to look us in the Face, *what then?* Why then we must show them our Faces to look in; we must wait for them, stand them, and fight them on all Occasions, till they are beaten, and beaten to a Compliance with all we demand.

And now I must put in another Caution, Gentlemen, against raising our Expectations, and talking up our Successes of this Campaign before-hand; our common Extravagancies in which are generally such, that if ye have not every thing the most talkative News-mongers tell you of, then we look baulk'd and disappointed—We have the Game in our own Hands no doubt, and there is no doubt but we shall play it home; but our Generals are Men of Prudence, and will play it sure—And if ye run on thus in your Expectations at first, none but mad Men can keep Pace with you—Nothing less will satisfy these hasty Gentlemen, than being at the Gates of *Paris*, plundering *Versailles*, overturning the whole Monarchy of *France*, a general Revolt of all the People in *France*, and a thousand such Things, none of which may happen, and yet you may bring *France* down as low as you can wish too, only give your Army Time to act; do not make all your Footmen Horsemen, and your Horses Eagles, and expect, Armies, Generals, and Artillery can fly.

We may enter *France*, there is a great View of it, and the most reasonable Expectations of it are built upon your Enemies Fears; but you are to remember, you leave innumerable strong Towns behind, and an Army of 100000 Men; and if you do break into *Picardy*, with that Army unfought with, and these Towns untaken, it must be done very warily and cautiously, as well as briskly and boldly—Yet there is no doubt of a Glorious Campaign, if we have but Patience to let our Generals act, and can be pleas'd without Miracles.

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